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Sent: Fri 10/12/2012 2:48:41 AM
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NEWS

Air Pollution

EPA Awards \$30 Million for Clean Diesel Programs

The Environmental Protection Agency on Oct. 11 awarded \$30 million in grants to states to assist diesel engine emissions reduction programs as part of the National Clean Diesel Campaign. States earlier received \$20 million in grants through...

Air Pollution

Provincial Caps for Key Pollutants Could

Impact Large Projects, Chinese Ministry Says

SHENZHEN, China—Planned caps on four pollutants could affect whether large projects in certain provinces have their environmental impact assessments approved, according to a top official at China's Ministry of Environmental...

Climate Change

Interior Providing More Than \$10 Million

For Climate Change Adaptation Projects

The Interior Department is providing more than \$10 million for projects to improve the ability of managers of national parks and other resources to help species and ecosystems adapt to climate change, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced...

Climate Change

More Investment in Carbon Capture Projects

Needed to Slow Temperature Rise, Study Says

Greater investment is needed in carbon capture and storage projects to meet the international goal of limiting global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius, according to a report by a carbon storage advocacy group....

Climate Change

World Bank President Calls Global Warming

Data 'Frightening,' Commits to Mitigation

TOKYO—World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said Oct. 11 that climate change is real and has had

alarming impacts, including natural disasters and food price fluctuations....

Corporate Responsibility

Hong Kong Exchange Issues Reporting Guidance

SHENZHEN, China—The Hong Kong Stock Exchange has approved a set of voluntary guidelines for companies to follow in their environmental, social, and governance reporting for financial years that end after Dec. 31, 2012. The ESG Reporting...

Corporate Responsibility

Issuers Should Tailor Disclosures

For Conflict Metals, Show Progress in Efforts

When disclosing use of "conflict minerals," companies should keep in mind that nongovernmental organizations and socially conscious investors will be the main consumers of the information, Sandy Merber, counsel for International...

Drilling

EPA Releases New Well Monitoring Data

On Groundwater Pollution at Wyoming Site

DENVER—The Environmental Protection Agency released new monitoring data Oct. 10 on groundwater contamination in a natural gas field near Pavillion, Wyo., which the agency had previously linked to hydraulic fracturing....

Drilling

Shell Official Says Team Permitting Approach

On Arctic Exploration Has Improved Process

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—A team approach that enables multiple federal agencies to work together to issue permits for Arctic oil exploration has vastly improved the federal regulatory process in Alaska, said Pete Slaiby, Alaska vice president...

Emissions Trading

Western Climate Group Updates Tracking System

LOS ANGELES—The Western Climate Initiative Inc. announced Oct. 10 a new version of its Compliance Instrument Tracking System Service (CITSS) software developed to administer the greenhouse gas emissions cap-and-trade programs...

Energy

FERC Grants Additional Time for Utilities

To Comply With Transmission Planning Rule

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has granted more time for several electricity transmission owners and regional organizations to file compliance plans, initially due Oct. 11, to a landmark rulemaking intended to build long-distance...

Energy

Green Energy Groups Ask Chicago Voters

To Support Bulk Power Purchase Referendum

CHICAGO—Environmental groups are calling on Chicago voters to back a referendum on the November ballot that could permit the city to negotiate bulk electric power purchases, saying the "community choice" proposal...

Energy

Interior Expected to Grant Final Approval

Of Solar Energy Zones Despite Protests

The Interior Department is expected to grant final approval Oct. 12 for the establishment of "solar energy zones" on large swaths of public land in six Western states, despite lingering concerns from environmental groups and others...

Energy

Treasury Department Inspector General

Launches Grant Program Investigation

A Treasury Department program that provides grants in lieu of tax credits to renewable energy developers is the subject of an investigation by the department's Office of Inspector General, a spokesman confirmed Oct. 11. ...

Enforcement

Federal, State Compliance Officials Discuss

Plans to Expand Use of Modern Technology

AUSTIN, Texas—The availability and drop in price of electronic technology is driving both federal and state agencies to move toward e-reporting and enhanced monitoring, U.S. and Texas environmental regulators said Oct. 11 at a meeting...

Enforcement

Rare EPA Criminal Clean Water Act Case Puts Construction Company Owner in Prison

SEATTLE—In a rare criminal prosecution under the Clean Water Act, a Puget Sound-area developer who flouted conditions of a construction stormwater general permit was sentenced Oct. 10 to spend six months in jail (United States v. Stowe,...

General Policy

Obama Extends Whistleblower Protections

In an Oct. 10 policy directive, President Obama extended new whistleblower protections to federal national security employees, including employees of the 17 intelligence community agencies and those in other agencies who are eligible...

Oil Spills

Oil Sheen Near Deepwater Horizon Rig

Matches Macondo Crude, Coast Guard Says

HOUSTON—The U.S. Coast Guard has notified BP Plc and Transocean Ltd. that an oil sheen located near the sunken Deepwater Horizon oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico matches crude spilled from the damaged Macondo well, a Coast Guard spokesman...

Pipeline Safety

PHMSA Awards \$45 Million in Pipeline Safety Grants

Approximately \$44 million in pipeline safety grants has been awarded to states and territories, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration announced Oct. 11. Pipeline...

Pipeline Safety

PHMSA Issues Final Order to Kinder Morgan

Over Pipeline Violations in Colorado

The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has issued a final order to Kinder Morgan CO Co. finding violations of federal pipeline safety regulations related to a Colorado pipeline....

Recycling

PET Plastic Recycling Volume Reaches

Record High; Recycling Rate Constant

Recyclers collected record volumes of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic containers in 2011, while the overall recycling rate of the material remained steady at just over 29 percent, according to a report released Oct. 10. ...

Solid Waste

Report Says E-Waste Market Poised for Rapid Growth

A market research firm projected in an Oct. 10 report that the global electronic waste recycling and reuse market will expand to \$18.27 billion by 2017 from an estimated \$9.83 billion in 2012. The market will expand at a 13.4 percent compound...

Trade

Chinese Government, Industry Criticize

U.S. Anti-Competitive Rulings on Solar Cells

SHENZHEN, China—The Ministry of Commerce has expressed "strong dissatisfaction" with the U.S. Commerce Department's final determinations that China is dumping solar cells and providing countervailable subsidies...

Water Pollution

Farm Bureau Federation Joins Poultry Farm

In Challenge to EPA Discharge Permit Order

CINCINNATI—A federal judge ruled Oct. 10 that the American Farm Bureau Federation can join a lawsuit by a West Virginia poultry farmer challenging an Environmental Protection Agency order to obtain a wastewater discharge permit (Alt...

Water Pollution

GAO Report Says EPA Should Focus More

On Treatment in Wastewater Guidelines

The Environmental Protection Agency could better prevent water pollution from industrial sources by focusing more on treatment technologies during its regular review of effluent guidelines, an Oct. 10 report by the Government Accountability...

Water Pollution

Philadelphia Gets Funds for Green Infrastructure

The Environmental Protection Agency said Oct. 10 that it is giving \$3 million to Philadelphia for research into quantifying the early benefits, long-term effectiveness, and economic viability of green infrastructure; evaluating alternative...

Water Pollution

Survey Reveals Most States Use Biological

Indicators to Assess Nutrient Pollution

A survey of state water programs by the Association of Clean Water Administrators shows that most states are using some form of biological monitoring to assess nutrient impairment of aquatic life in the nation's waters....

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